

REMARKS

Claims in the case are 1 and 4-15, upon entry of this amendment. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 11 have been amended, Claims 14 and 15 have been added, and Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice herein.

Basis for added Claim 14 is found in the Examples at page 27-30, and in particular in Table 1 on page 30 of the specification. Basis for the ratios in added Claim 14 are found in Examples 3, 4 and 5 in Table 1 on page 30 of the specification. Basis for added Claim 15 is found in Claim 11.

Claims 1 and 11 have each been amended to include a portion of the subject matter of Claims 2 and 3 (which have been cancelled herein). Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to better correspond to present Claim 1. In particular, Claim 4 has been amended to delete the recitation of "dihydroxydiphenyl." Claim 9 has been amended to replace "Claims" with --Claim--. Claim 10 has been amended to replace "containing" with --comprising--.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the amendments herein and the following remarks.

Claim 7 has been amended herein to remove the duplicate recitation of "selected from the group consisting of."

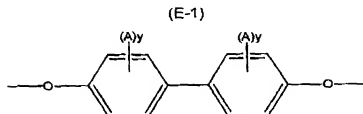
In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which they regard as their invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Canadian Patent Application No. 2,300,218 (Eckel et al). This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to the amendments herein and the following remarks.

Eckel et al discloses a flame-resistant thermoplastic molding composition that includes as a necessary component a phosphorous compound that contains a residue of 4,4'-biphenol (also referred to as 4,4-dihydroxybiphenyl or 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenyl), represented by the following general formula (E-1),

Mo-8660

-11-



See the abstract and formula (I) on page 2 of Eckel et al. The compositions of Eckel et al. may optionally include at least one further phosphorous compound represented by their formula (II) (page 3).

Eckel et al. does not disclose the molding composition of Applicants' present claims, which includes at least two phosphorous compounds represented by formulas (I-a) and (I-b), neither of which includes a residue of a 4,4'-biphenol (as represented by formula (E-1)), or any structural isomers of a biphenol.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to be unanticipated by and patentable over Eckel et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eckel et al. In light of the amendments herein and the following remarks, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

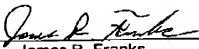
Eckel et al. has been discussed previously herein. Eckel et al. discloses a flame-resistant thermoplastic molding composition that includes: (i) as a necessary component, a phosphorous compound that contains a residue of 4,4'-biphenol, as represented by general formula (E-1); and (ii) optionally at least one further phosphorous compound represented by their formula (II) (page 3).

However, Eckel et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest a thermoplastic molding composition that does not include a phosphorous compound containing a residue of 4,4'-biphenol. In particular, Eckel et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest the molding composition of Applicants' present claims, which includes at least two phosphorous compounds represented by formulas (I-a) and (I-b), neither of which includes a residue of a 4,4'-biphenol (as represented by formula (E-1)), or any structural isomers of a biphenol.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to be unobvious and patentable over Eckel et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' presently pending claims are deemed to meet all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and to define an invention that is unanticipated, unobvious and hence, patentable. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the presently pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MJ/JRF6660amendment